

McGhee, who on March 31, 2000, will be honored by the Wayne Metro Division of the Office of Juvenile Justice for twenty-seven years of service to the families and children of the State of Michigan. Early in her life, Ms. Ransom-McGhee decided that she wished to work in the field of Human Services, and over the past twenty-seven years she has continually demonstrated not only a love for helping people, but also impressive leadership capabilities.

Ms. Ransom-McGhee has worked at a number of organizations in the Detroit metropolitan area: from 1972 to 1979 she worked at the Wayne County Department of Social Services, from 1979 to 1986 she worked as a Child Welfare Specialist at the State of Michigan Children Youth and Services, from 1988 to 1989 she worked as the Director of the Monte Vista Reception Center, from 1989 to 1994 she worked as a Clinical Director in the State of Michigan Burton Youth Reception Center, from 1994 to 1997 she worked as the Administrative Director of Wayne Metro Day Treatment Services for juvenile delinquents, and in 1997 she returned to Burton Youth Reception Center to serve as its Director.

In addition to her work in the Human Services field, Ms. Ransom-McGhee has a number of outside interests. She is a board member of the State of Michigan Judiciary Detention Association; she is a Youth Counselor Consultant of the Girl Scouts of America; she is an Advisor Consultant of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Council, she is a sponsor of the N.A.A.C.P. Black College Tour and Mentorship program; and she is a Youth Minister and Sunday School teacher at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms. Ransom-McGhee has received several awards for her dedication to her work and to her community. In 1996, she received the Pastoral Community Service Award. In 1997, she received the Director of the Year Award from the State of Michigan Office of Juvenile Justice. And in 1998, the city of Southfield, Michigan, awarded her with its Community Pride Award.

On April 1, 2000, Ms. Ransom-McGhee will assume new duties as Assistant Division Director at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. President, I applaud Ms. Ransom-McGhee for her dedication to her job and her tireless work over the past twenty-seven years. She is a role model for us all. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish her the best of luck in her new position.●

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SEVENTH ANNUAL RHAPSODY IN RED MASQUERADE BALL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on April 1, 2000, the Southeastern Michi-

gan Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its seventh annual Rhapsody in Red Masquerade Ball, a celebration which allows its patrons to enjoy themselves and to support one of the most noble causes our country has ever known at the same time. I rise today not only to honor this occasion, but also to bestow praise and thanks upon an organization that truly deserves both.

Since 1994, this annual gala has raised over one million dollars for the Southeastern Michigan Chapter. The Rhapsody in Red Masquerade Ball plays a significant role in allowing this chapter to continue its disaster relief efforts in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. The annual event also provides members of the community with an opportunity to recognize the tireless efforts of the administrative staff and the volunteers of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, and to appropriately thank them for these efforts.

In 1999 alone, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter provided disaster relief to more than 6,000 individuals. More than 14,000 volunteers offered their time to the chapter, collectively working more than 500,000 hours. I am proud to say that, of the fifty states, Michigan ranks fourth in the nation for exporting volunteers into emergency zones, and the efforts and organization of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter undoubtedly play a role in this success. In addition, through its Blanket Days for the Homeless Campaign, an operation spearheaded by fourteen volunteers, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter collected over 13,000 blankets, which were then distributed to seventy homeless shelters in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Recently, in response to an increase in residential fires, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter maintained 24-hour Disaster Action Teams, formed from a pool of sixty-four trained volunteers.

Mr. President, as I was preparing this statement I was reminded once again of the essential role the American Red Cross plays in our communities. Born from the mythic efforts of Clara Barton during the Civil War, the organization currently has more than 1.3 million volunteers working underneath its banner, providing disaster relief services for victims of more than 66,000 disasters per year. More importantly, the American Red Cross still holds firm to the principles it was founded upon. Its mission remains to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. That is why, when things are at their worst, it continues to be the American Red Cross and its volunteers that are there to make them better.

Mr. President, I applaud the administrative staff and volunteers of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross for their remarkable efforts. Every day they remind the

people of Michigan that the spirit of Clara Barton is alive and well. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I hope that the Red Rhapsody Masquerade Ball is a success for a seventh time.●

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUTH CONNECTION, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Youth Connection, a strategic, non-profit prevention campaign with a ten-year goal of reducing youth violence, substance abuse and early sexual activity in Detroit, Michigan. The organization was founded to provide the youth of metropolitan Detroit with a sense of belonging to the present, and also with a sense of hope and inspiration for the future.

Presently, in coordination with Detroit Public Schools, Mt. Clemens Community Schools and the School District of Pontiac, Youth Connection is promoting an activity called Free 4 the Weekend, which encourages students within these districts to remain drug free during a designated weekend in April.

Mr. President, statistics tell us that eighty-seven percent of high school seniors report using alcohol. In addition, middle and high school students drink nearly thirty-five percent of all wine coolers consumed in the United States. These patterns have devastating consequences. Research shows that most youth misconduct and violence takes place after school between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. It is my belief that by supporting and enhancing after school programs, expanding the "Safe Night" initiatives in partner communities, and expanding youth leadership programs and activities, we can enhance the quality of life for all metropolitan Detroit youth.

Mr. President, with Alcohol Awareness Month just a few days away, I applaud Youth Connection for encouraging the youth of metropolitan Detroit to remain sober. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, and also the State of Michigan, I would like to thank them for their efforts.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:41 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, once of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 910. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in coordination with other Federal agency heads, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination, water supply, and reliability affecting the San Gabriel groundwater basin in California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1279. An act to designate the Federal building and United States post office located at 236 Sharkey Street in Clarksdale,